

Message Text

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70

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R 211513Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9049

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS OUAGADOUGOU 0150

DEPT PASS USIA FOR USINFO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, ML, UV

SUBJECT MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF GOUV STATEMENT BROADCAST OVER OUAGA RADIO JANUARY 20 AND PUBLISHED IN "L'OBSERVATEUR" ON JANUARY 21.

2. QUOTE: DURING THE EVENING OF JANUARY 19, 1975, OVER RADIO MALI COLONEL MOUSSA TRAORE HAS ONCE MORE AND UNEXPECTEDLY HURLED GRAVE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST UPPER VOLTA.

THE HEAD OF THE MALIAN MILITARY COMMITTEE AFFIRMS THAT, IN SPITE OF LOME, MALIAN NATIONALS REASIDING IN UPPER VOLTA CONTINUE TO BE SUBJECTED TO POGROMS AND MAN HUNTS.

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IN SHORT, COLONEL MOUSSA TRAORE REOPENS THE RADIO WAR BY ACCUSING US OF MURDERING OUR MALIAN BROTHERS.

POGROMS, MAN HUNTS, GENOCIDE, THOSE WORDS ARE TOO HEAVY WITH MEANING TO BE USED SO LIGHTLY. THOSE WHO HAVE DONE SO HAD NO FEAR OF INCITING AND FOSTERING THE HATRED OF THE MALIAN PEOPLE TOWARDS THE VOLTAN POPULATIONS.

LONG BEFORE LOME, AND ESPECIALLY SINCE LOME, THE MALIAN POPULATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN VICTIMS OF MASSACRE IN UPPER VOLTA. IF IT WAS NOT SO, HOW COULD WE EXPLAIN THAT IN THE SAHEL REGIONS, MALIAN REFUGEES FROM THE DROUGHT CONTINUE TO SHARE THE FOOD OF THEIR VOLTAN BROTHERS. HOW CAN WE EXPLAIN ALSO THAT MANY MALIANS, CIVILIAN OR OTHER, HAVE CONTINUED TO ENTER UPPER VOLTA SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE BORDER CONFLICT? FINALLY HOW CAN WE EXPLAIN THAT MALIANS CAUGHT IN ACTS OF ESPIONAGE HAVE NOT RECEIVED IN OUR COUNTRY THE PUNISHMENT WHICH IS NORMALLY GIVEN TO SUCH INDIVIDUALS?

FOR OUR PART, WE HAVE SAID IT, AND WE SAY IT AGAIN SINCE WE MUST: THERE HAVE NEVER BEEN GENOCIDE, POGROMS OR MANHUNTS IN UPPER VOLTA.

IN FACT, THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE VOLTAN PEOPLE ARE DESIGNED TO COVER UP A TACTICAL MANEUVER WHICH IS EASY TO DETECT: TO UNDERMINE THE REPUTATION OF UPPER VOLTA ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE; TO JUSTIFY AN EVENTUAL ACTION AGAINST UPPER VOLTA, ITS TERRITORY OR ITS NATIONALS; AND TO FREEZE AND COMPROMISE THE WORK OF THE MEDIATION COMMISSION ESTABLISHED AT LOME BY THE OAU.

INTERNATIONAL OPINION WILL NOTE THAT, IN SPITE OF OUR DEEP CONVICTION REGARDING THE SOUNDNESS OF OUR CAUSE, WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM HELPING THE ENEMIES OF OUR CONTINENT BY SABOTAGING THE WORK OF THE CEAO AT NIAMEY, BY REFUSING TO RECEIVE THE OAU MEDIATION MISSION, OR BY BROADCASTING VERY GRAVE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST MALI.

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WE HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE MEDIATION COMMISSION OF THE OAU. UNQUOTE.GRAHAM

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